

PROCLAMATION

AT THE LAYING OF THE

CORNER, STONE

—OF—

St. Paul's (Blue) Church

—IN—

Upper Saucon Township

LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



IN THE NAME OF THE TRIUNE GOD. AMEN.

Whereas, the Lord according to His promise, will dwell where the memory of His name is established, and where two or three are gathered in His name will be in their midst and bless them.

Whereas, no congregation can conduct the solemnities of public Divine worship with impressiveness and dignity and to their own edification without a church adapted to the purpose, and Whereas, the Union Church, in Upper Saucon township, Lehigh County, in the State of Pennsylvania, had become so old, dilapidated and useless as a place of public worship that the congregations found themselves under the necessity of razing it and are therefore, for the present, without an own house adapted to the purpose of their worship, while at the same time considering the possession of one indispensably necessary to the preservation of their religion, more especially to the convenient hearing of God's word, the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and the promotion of their and their children's salvation. And, Whereas, the congregations have now mutually resolved to erect a new house of worship they consider it necessary to publish to the world with what purpose, to what end, and for what denomination of Christians the same shall be erected.

Therefore,—We record herewith and announce to present and future generations; That we here, this day, April 28th, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, under the administration of Andrew Jackson, president of the United States, and of George Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania, lay the corner-stone for a high-German-Evangelical Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Church, and if God shall promote the work of our hands and the house shall be completed, it shall be dedicated to the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, for all time, and shall be known as St. Paul's Church, and that it shall be and remain a Union Evangelical Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran Church, wherein the gospel of Christ, the crucified, shall be preached, and the holy sacraments administered in accordance with the teachings of Jesus and His apostles, the contents of which we have in our catechism, which we to this end place in the corner-stone, so that the people of the future may see what our creed is.

Should people appear after us who forget their Savior, scorn God's word and the sacraments and decline their wholesome teachings, we this day take heaven and earth as witnesses that we are guiltless and clean of their blood. This house, which we here erect shall always testify that we love an Evangelical Christianity, prize it highly and desire it propagated; That it is our wish that here the doctrine of reconciliation, as

taught by Jesus Christ, shall be made known in its purity to anxious souls; that we expect it of our children and grandchildren that they will never forsake their ancestral teachings and congregations; that it is our wish that here, old and young, may be awakened, encouraged, comforted and prepared for eternity. With such a wish and with such feelings we may confidently hope in God, and with Jacob say, "This stone which we here set up for a pillar shall be God's house, a place where God shall reveal His gracious presence."

Done this 28th day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1833, and in the 57th year of the independence of the United States. Subscribed to by Trustees, Elders, Deacons and Building Committee of the congregations, as also by the ministers present.

Lutheran Building Committee — Henry Knauss, Ehrhard Weaver.

Reformed Building Committee—Frederick Wittman, Peter Berger.

Treasurer—Jacob Hartzel.

Lutheran Elders—Abraham Schaffer, Ehrhard Weaver.

Reformed Elders—Andrew Engleman, Jacob Hartzel.

Lutheran Deacons—Jacob Erdman, Wm. Stahr, Philip Bitting, Mathias Weaver.

Reformed Deacons—Abraham Person, John Jordan, Charles Bitting, Daniel Cooper.

Lutheran Trustee—Peter Heist.

Reformed Trustee—Paul Heller.

Visiting Ministers—Charles S. Seidel, Theo. Pomp, J. J. Jaeger.

Lutheran Pastor—Benj. German.

Reformed Pastor—Samuel Hess.

CHURCH REGULATIONS.

Whereas, God is a God of order, and loves all good order, and Whereas, He especially desires that at His worship everything shall be conducted in an orderly manner, and Whereas, christian charity and concord between two congregations may easily be disturbed in the absence of outward forms of discipline and order, we have, to this end adopted the following regulations which shall for all time be observed by and between the two congregations, to wit:

I. The Building Committee, with the concurrence of the two Pastors, shall direct at the dedication of the church in what order the members shall sit during services, and this order shall be and continue to be observed by both congregations.

II. The joint consistory shall consist of two trustees, four elders and eight deacons. To this end each congregation shall annually, in the month of November, elect one elder and two deacons, and bi-annually, one trustee, and these shall serve for two years.

III. Each of the congregations shall bi-annually elect a treasurer whose duty it shall be to enter into a book all monies received from the deacons, and this book and the money received by him shall be delivered to the consistory whenever required.

IV. Should any church-officer willfully violate any of the foregoing or following regulations, or lead an openly vicious life, he shall forthwith be removed from office and another elected in his stead

V. Should any of these congregations come to be without a Pastor, it shall be the duty of the consistory to meet with the other consistories of the charge, "if they so agree," to elect a pastor, and if a minister shall receive two-thirds of the votes of such consistories, our consistory shall be authorized with the concurrence of the other consistories to accept him. Should this, however, not be the case, then shall the consistory invite the congregation to meet for the purpose of electing a Pastor by ballot, and, if a minister shall receive a majority of the votes of the congregations he shall be accepted by the consistory. Provided: That no Lutheran

shall have the right to vote at any election of the Reformed congregation, and no Reformed at any election of the Lutheran congregation; and no member of either congregation shall have the right to vote for a Pastor who has not within the last two years contributed to the support of the Pastor.

VI. Should a Pastor fail to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, in its purity and exclusiveness, maladminister the sacraments, neglect his pastoral duties, or lead a vicious life, he shall be admonished by the consistory, and, if he fails to mend his ways, the consistory shall prefer a charge against him before the other congregations. If a majority of the consistories of his other congregations decide against him, then shall the consistories invite the congregations to meet on a certain day to decide; and, if a majority of the members of all his congregations are against him he shall be discharged. Provided, that he shall be informed thereof for three months.

VII. The Lutheran congregation shall have no right to accept as their permanent Pastor any minister who is not a member of the high German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania. Nor shall the Reformed congregation have a right to accept as their permanent pastor one who is not a member of the high German Reformed Synod, of North America. And no congregation shall have the right to

allow any minister to preach in this church without the consent of their Pastor.

VIII. The church accounts of both congregations shall be closed annually on the fourth Saturday in December. The elders shall examine the accounts of the deacons and report the balance in their hands to the treasurer, and they, the elders too shall keep a book thereof, and the deacons shall forthwith pay such balance over to the treasurer.

IX. The two congregations, being unequal in the number of their membership, and therefore in resources, the expense of maintaining, repairing and improving the church property, usually paid out of the regular contributions, shall be borne by both in about the same proportion which their respective numbers bear to each other. In other respects each congregation shall have the right to dispose of their contributions as they may think best.

X. Any person heretofore qualified as a church-member, by confirmation or otherwise, may apply to the Pastor or the consistory of either congregation for membership therein. If the application is favorably considered, the Pastor shall announce his or her name as a new member, and he or she may commune with the congregation and enjoy all the privileges of full membership, Provided, That no person shall be recognized as a member who has not within the last two years contributed to the support of his Pastor and the church.

XI. All members qualified, as prescribed in Article X, shall be entitled to the use of the church for funeral services, and to burial in the old or church cemetery free of charge; but parties not so qualified, who may desire the use of the church for funeral services shall pay to the janitor, for such use a fee of five dollars, and if they desire to bury in said cemetery they shall pay to the same officer an additional fee of one dollar for each grave.

XII. Whenever graves are dug or for any reason, the ground is made uneven in the old or church cemetery, the parties making or causing it to be made uneven shall within fifteen days remove all superfluous ground and restore the cemetery to its proper level, otherwise the consistories will have the same done and the parties in neglect will be held liable for the expenses incurred.

XIII. These regulations shall be printed and a copy thereof delivered to each family of both congregations.

In the name of the Congregations.